

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06477 211229Z

44

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 211202Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1258

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6477

EXDIS

HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AER, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION: NEW PROPOSAL IN LIGHT OF NEW SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 179020, (B) BEIRUT 6444

1. OUR JUDGEMENT CONTINUES TO BE THAT BRINGING IN AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT INVOLVES SOME DEGREE OF RISK, AND CERTAINLY MORE THAN IF WE CHARTERED MEA AIRCRAFT. IF IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THIS RISK. IT IS VERY PROBABLE THAT, WITH ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE ON EVERYONE'S PART THAT THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE COMING IN FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF EVACUATION, RISK WOULD BE MINIMAL. TROUBLE IS, AS WE HAVE INDICATED BEFORE, THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF THE INDEPENDENT SHARPSHOOTER. WHILE BOTH SIDES UNDOUBTEDLY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTROL THESE ELEMENTS, PLANE WITH AMERICAN RATHER THAN MEA MARKINGS RAISES RISK SLIGHTLY.

2. ONLY PERSON I HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH OUTSIDE OF EMBASSY IS EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT BRINGING IN AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT FOR EVACUATION.

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3. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THAT AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT MIGHT

BE OPERATED BY A CREW THAT IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AIRPORT. SINCE  
THERE IS SOME RUNWAY DAMAGE AND NO TOWER OR NAVIGATIONAL AID  
SUPPORT, A CREW ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH AIRPORT AND AIR STRIP CONDITION  
S  
WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE DIFFICULTY.

4. MEA CAN MAKE ITS GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT  
AND PERSONNEL AVAILABLE FOR OUR AIRCRAFT. IN THIS CONDITION, IF IT  
IS ESSENTIAL TO USSE AMERICAN CHARTER, PAN AMERICAN WOULD PROBABLY  
HAVE A CREW FAMILIAR WITH BEIRUT AIRPORT AND, IN ADDITION, PANAM  
HAS ESTABLISHED A WORKING RELATIONSHIP HERE.

5. IN SUM, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THE RISK, AND ABOUT ALL  
WE CAN SAY IS THAT, IN OUR VIEW, RISK OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT IS  
GREATER THAN THAT OF MEA AIRCRAFT. YET CHANCES ARE PROBABLY GOOD  
THAT WE COULD EVACUATE PERSONNEL ON AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WITHOUT  
INCIDENT.  
SEELYE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, AIR TRANSPORTATION, SECURITY, EVACUATION PLANS, CAT-A, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, AIRPORTS  
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**TAGS:** AEMR, PINS, PFOR, SY, LE, US, MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES, PANAM  
**To:** STATE CAIRO DAMASCUS  
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